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'Nothing To Hide,' Says Gallo Of Search For Alleged Beria

CPYRGHT

Young Nicaraguan Planter Returns From Spain, Denies Arrest There

Fabio Gallo, a young Nicaraguan planter recently on the international news scene as the man who said he was the intermediary for Lavrenti Beria, deposed chief of Soviet secret police, has returned to the United States to "prove he has nothing to hide."

In an interview, Gallo said he had returned to face "any charges that may be brought against me for having been involved in this business of giving information to the FBI."

PROTECTION ASKED

Gallo said he had not been under arrest in Spain, as was reported in U. S. newspapers during the time when the story of Beria's supposed escape from Russia was making international headlines in September.

"I asked for the protection of the Spanish police," Gallo said. "It is true that I was held incognito two months, but it was at my own request. It was nothing like being in jail. I simply stayed in a small apartment. I had all the conveniences of home."

Gallo described his part in the "Beria affair" as that of a "messenger."

"The only part I played in the Beria affair was to take messages from the man in Mexico to the FBI in Washington and to Vice President Nixon as I was told," Gallo said. "I don't know and I doubt whether anyone knows, whether the man was really Beria or not."

REPORT TO FBI

"I did not know that the man was even supposed to be Beria until I actually was face to face with him in Gibraltar, where I met him according to the instructions I received in Los Angeles. That was more than two months after I received the first information from Mexico."

Gallo reported to The San Diego Union and the FBI Sept. 16, that he had spoken with a man in Gibraltar who said he was Beria and that the man was awaiting certain documents of guarantee from the United States before he would surrender to the FBI in Washington.

"I spent more than \$10,000 of my own money doing what I thought was a move to help the United States and all the Americas. I was almost ready to deliver the man who called him-

self Beria when a U. S. State Department representative in Spain threatened me and turned me over to the police there because I refused to cooperate with him," Gallo said.

LOCAL POLICE

Gallo was turned over to the local police at Malaga, Spain, Sept. 21, on the day he was to meet Gene Fuson, a San Diego Union staff writer, who carried the required documents from Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) to the man who said he was Beria. No contact ever was made with the fugitive after that, despite cooperation of the Spanish secret police and the Spanish government.

"The first instructions those people gave me in Mexico were that I was to go straight to the vice president and the FBI in Washington and that the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency were not to be notified under any circumstances," Gallo said. "I did everything I was told to do."

Gallo said he will leave immediately to return to Spain, where he will lend what assistance he can to the Spanish secret police and the investigation which is still under way there.

GALLO WILLING

"I think I will make my permanent residence in Spain, because many of my friends live there," he said.

To doubts of his motives Gallo said, "I don't need any Fifth Amendment to hide behind and I am willing to answer any questions under oath, self-incriminating or otherwise."

Gallo, who spoke yesterday at a luncheon meeting of the San Diego Downtown Rotary Club, has refused requests for other speaking engagements. He said he was not seeking publicity, and had no more to say in public.



FABIO GALLO
Gives Interview